



MONTEREY

NEWS

APRIL 1987



THE TOWN'S ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

Late last fall the Board of Selectmen appointed a committee to evaluate the Town's current accounting system and make recommendations to improve the system to bring it up to present-day standards. The Committee met through the winter and talked to the Town's financial officers to determine what they did and what their internal and external financial informational needs were. The Committee also talked to other towns of similar size to see how they met their accounting and reporting requirements.

The Committee finally determined that the Town has grown to become a million-dollar-a-year enterprise and that current systems have not been updated to meet the needs of such growth. It was further learned that in recent years the Department of Revenue and other state agencies have required more complex and numerous reports. Much of the information requested is used by the legislature in determining local aid formulas as well as the types and amounts of grants required to help municipalities cope with the increasing stress of limited revenue resources. The Town's information and accounting systems have barely kept pace with the constant requests for information and reports.

In light of these findings, the Committee concluded that it was imperative that the Town authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Town Accountant and that, in fact, the accuracy and timeliness of the Town's reporting could result in more money coming to the Town. A Town Accountant in Monterey would be a part-time official who would perform the duties prescribed by Massachusetts General Laws, which include: maintaining an accounting system in accordance with accepted standards for governmental units; reviewing expenditures and preparing weekly warrants for the Selectmen's approval;

preparing monthly expenditure reports; preparing state and federally required reports; generating any other financial information that may be requested from time to time; and initiating the annual budgetary process. The Committee also recommended that at some future date, after a Town Accountant had been selected and an updated accounting system made fully operational, the Town then consider automating the accounting function with a computer.

Committee members concluded that the increased annual cost of the new accountant position would be offset by lower audit costs and continuous savings through improved financial management of the Town's resources.

We ask your support for this article at the May 2, 1987, Town Meeting.

Bud Pearl
Barbara Gauthier

Nancy Maglione
Cynthia Weber
Virgil Stucker

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The deadline for your much-appreciated contributions is the 20th of each month (it's always listed on the back page in case anyone forgets!), but for the May issue, because of the Town Meeting on May 2, we hope to get out the *News*, with a discussion of the various issues in the warrant, in the last week of April. The deadline, then, for the May issue will be April 15!



CHURCH NEWS

Church Calendar

- Sundays: 9:15-10:15 Discussion based on scriptures led by members of the congregation
10:30-11:30 Morning Worship
- Wednesday, April 1: Agape Meal, 6:30-8:00. Everybody brings some bread or cheese or fruit or juice/wine for a time of fellowship, table talk, singing and exchange of ideas.
- Tuesday, April 7: Prayer Breakfast at the home of Ray and Mary Ward at 7:00 a.m.
- Monday, April 13: Parish Council at the parsonage at 7:45 p.m.
- Friday, April 10: Deacons Meeting at the parsonage at 8:30 a.m. (Note: This is a morning meeting)
- Every Thursday morning from 8-8:30 at the church David Bach will lead the group in meditation.
- Thursday, April 16: Maundy Thursday Service with Communion, 6:30-8:00
- Sunday, April 19: Easter Sunrise Service, time and place to be announced; Morning Worship at 10:30

Church World Service Clothing Drive

This is the season of rebirth and new growth. Even your discarded clothing can blossom forth into new usefulness. It can bring comfort, a sense of being cared for and therefore new hope if it is shared through Church World Service with those in need. Until May 1 the following needed articles may be brought to the church or to Mary Ward's porch (528-9243):

1. Light- or medium-weight clothing for men and children (no women's clothing at this time);
2. Sweaters for children, men and women;
3. Layettes for infants (call for specifics);
4. Yarn in small or large lots.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, received on March 29, will continue until mid-April. These funds, gathered from an ecumenical constituency, are used to meet ecumenical needs in four categories:

1. Disaster relief overseas and in the U.S.;
2. Development projects—helping people to help themselves by providing the means of production;
3. Refugee services programs both to people who wait in camps and to those being resettled in the U.S.;
4. Social services, particularly for children overseas in facilities for those with physical and mental disabilities. It's not too late to have a part in this offering.

Message

*What you would grasp
Let go
Only those seeds which fall
Grow.*

— Alice O. Howell

ANTI-APARTHEID (in action) IN MONTEREY

The United Church of Christ was recently given an opportunity to support a small South African church, located in the working-class townships of Heideveld-Manenberg, near Cape Town. This church, with a mixed, predominantly black membership, is having a hard time staying afloat with an unemployment rate of 46% among its members.

The minister of this small church appealed for help—through a member of the Monterey congregation—and the Monterey church declared itself a sister church by unanimous vote during its last annual meeting. So far, church members here have collected several hundred dollars to be sent to the United Church of Heideveld-Manenberg; we would like to expand the appeal to people in Monterey who would like to support a nonracial, anti-apartheid community in South Africa. If you want to help—no amount is too small—please send your check to the United Church of Christ, Box 182, Monterey, MA 01245, and mark your check "For S. Africa church." If you would like more information, please call either David Bach at 528-4825 or Walter Wink at 258-3352.

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH COLLECTS LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF WIC PROGRAM

Monterey United Church of Christ collected an "Offering of Letters" on Sunday, March 29, to urge Congressional support of the Women, Infants and Children Food For Life Legislation introduced in Congress the week of March 14. Representative George Miller of California and Senator DeConcini of Arizona introduced this Joint Resolution calling for expanded federal funding for WIC. At present funding levels, the program serves under 50% of eligible mothers and young children who are at nutritional risk.

Members of Monterey UCC are writing letters to Congressman Conte, Senator Kennedy, and Senator Kerry urging their support of this important legislation. Their "Offering of Letters" will be among hundreds of letter collections held this year in support of increased funding for the WIC program. It is estimated that one of every five children in the United States is living in poverty, and these children have a real need for the nutritious foods provided through WIC.

Bread for the World, the national Christian citizens anti-hunger movement, is sponsoring this Offering of Letters campaign.

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GOULD FARM

Some Monterey residents have asked recently, "What exactly is it that Gould Farm does?"

The William J. Gould Associates have been committed since 1913 to social service. Gould Farm and our urban sites in the Boston area provide residential rehabilitative care. We serve up to 75 individuals—40 at Gould Farm—who suffer from emotional difficulties and mental illness.

Our typical "guest" comes to Gould Farm from psychiatric hospitalization in the Northeast. We offer an atmosphere of kindness, the intensive company of "normal" people, and the healthy environment found in Monterey. Our on-site work program includes meaningful activities in farming, forestry, gardening, kitchen work, furniture making, housekeeping and retail work in the Roadside Store. This six-hour-a-day, five-day-a-week program provides challenging and supportive employment opportunities. These enable our guests to regain feelings of accomplishment and strength.

Beyond our more than 30 residential staff who work and socialize daily with our guests, we have a registered psychiatric nurse and licensed social worker. An independent psychiatrist is also regularly available on-site.

In addition to improving work skills, our guests strive to socialize more comfortably. Their participation in the Gould Farm community provides opportunity for this. Some also are fortunate enough to work at the Roadside Store, where they have the opportunity to benefit from relating with the broader Monterey community.

After an average stay of six months, many guests are able to move to our Boston program and live in one of our three residences. Staff there help the guest find and maintain employment in the greater Boston area while learning to live more and more independently.

Our whole program is accessible to anyone who needs it regardless of his or her ability to pay for our services. Families of our guests pay according to their means. Since we receive no state or federal funding we are quite dependent upon general contributions to make ends meet. This is why, for example, we are so grateful for the Monterey community's recent help in providing funds for our gasoline tank replacement at the Roadside Store.

Please call us at the Gould Farm office (528-1804), if you have other questions.

— Virgil Stucker



SUSAN McALLESTER

DAFFODILS INVADE MONTEREY

This year the American Cancer Society "Flower of Hope" (daffodil) sales flourished in town—you bought twice as many as last year, and thank you for your support. The Monterey General Store generously stored and distributed them. A special story is that Maynard Forbes funded and Milly Walsh distributed 18 bunches to Monterey folk. Diane Rausch assisted in passing them out. Milly and Diane had to refuse kind offers for tea and crumpets often, much to their dismay, as time wouldn't allow. Their reward was the joy given from such a simple thing. Recipients were mostly folks who attend the regular dinners at the church basement, also organized by Milly (open, incidentally, to anyone who has time to attend). They were: Helen Backus, the Bralliers, Grace Burke, the Cravens, the Dunlops, the Greenes, the Levines, Helen McKay, Robert Palin (the new minister), Marion Schneider, Lucy Smith, Henry Schick, Wally Tryon, Ann Vickerman, the Wards, Edith Wilson, and Grace Zerra. Ed Brosseau must have been away—missed his.

If you missed them this year—watch for the sale next year in March.

— Fran Amidon
A. C. S. Volunteer



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MONTEREY WASTELINES

Garbage costs in Monterey will increase dramatically on the First of July. Are you ready?

Well, your life may not be permanently changed — you may not even notice the difference. But your neighbors the selectmen and other Town servants have already been puzzling and worrying about how to assign the increased costs brought about by soaring landfill costs. Our paper cups and chicken bones will soon cost \$59.50 per ton when they arrive at a landfill in Granby to be buried. Ugh.

The Town's five-year total solid waste contract hid the mounting costs for a short, blissful time. Now we will see how much it really costs to throw things away.

So, it's a new ballgame. What do we do about garbage? Should the Town carry on the same waste system as before, pay the \$80,000 to \$90,000 it will take to do our business as usual, and wait for this threefold cost increase to show up in our taxes and rents?

There are better alternatives, but none is perfect. We could enact a flat-rate user fee. That way we would face more directly at least some of the costs of our garbage production. The selectmen are considering a proposal to charge each household \$35.00 for a yearly sticker, with categories for other establishments.

It would be even more appropriate to have charges based upon volume (and maybe weight) of materials delivered to the transfer station. No one wants garbage and junk. Okay, so the more you produce, the more you pay. It makes sense to me.

There's even a better way to ease our solid waste problem. Residents of Monterey can learn to produce less solid waste this year than we did last. We can recycle more items than we are now doing. Don't despair — there will soon be better ways to get rid of your tin cans, ketchup bottles and *Boston Globes*. More on this later.

In the meantime, be ready to offer your thoughtful, can-do suggestions for solid waste management in our town. The Annual Town Meeting is May 2.

— Wayne Burkhart



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VOX ED. THE ROPE

In evaluating the resources of Monterey, high on the list and closely related to the scenery, the climate and the wildlife, are the people with summer homes here. The reason that the homes are here, of course, is that the natural surroundings correspond in large part to an American definition of the ideal — at least a summer ideal. It's also a summer idyll: the magic word "vacation" is implicit in "summer home." These idealists and idyllists are only technically nonresidents; they dream of Monterey when they are not here, and when they are here they reside with a special fervor. The hundreds of people who contribute to the *Monterey News* from all over the country and from abroad are a measure of their affection for the town, its history, its present and its people. They save us from the doldrums of being merely a hinterland village — thanks, in part, to them we have cosmopolitan connections.

Many of our summer residents have been coming here for fifty years or more and think of Monterey as home. Many settle here when they retire, realizing what has often been a lifelong dream. Whenever they come, for whatever length of stay, they bring with them a rich mixture of ideas and talents which are an integral part of our town.

Last summer when the town met to consider for the second time a vote for an override of the budget, there were as many summer residents present as year-round residents. Of course, the former could not vote, and they had to be seated in such a way as to avoid confusing the vote counters. Without any symbolic implications being intended, they were seated in the back of the room with a big rope stretched across between them and those with the legal right to vote.

Next time let's have an aisle down the middle, and our two kinds of residents can be demarcated by being on one side or the other. Then *anyone* who is hard of hearing can sit up front. Though there was no symbolic intention last summer, that rope lay like a leaden barrier between our two populations, and the seating was, in fact, unequal.

— David P. McAllester

THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

On March 9 Paul Porter of Construct Inc. accompanied me to the selectmen's meeting to request that Monterey apply to become a Housing Partnership Community. This status would make the Town eligible for state monies in several programs designed by the state to address the housing needs of its citizens. The selectmen, after asking several pertinent questions, agreed that this would be a good step for the Town to take.

Jed Lipsky, as chairman, instructed me to form the Monterey Affordable Housing Committee at the Open Meeting scheduled for March 10 and to inform the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission of our activities.

The Open Meeting, sponsored by the Monterey Land Trust, was attended by about 25 people. The meeting was introduced by Bob Thieriot of the Monterey Land Trust. This generated some questions and explanations of the role of the Land Trust in this effort. Briefly: some members of the Land Trust Board of Directors share the concerns of other citizens about the need for affordable housing in our town and have expressed a willingness to help both as individuals and through the Land Trust.

Next I told what had happened at the selectmen's meeting and the Land Trust meeting in February, then rambled a bit into various discussions I've had with people knowledgeable about housing and funding. The point of my presentation was that we are not the first to recognize the problem and that with perseverance we can use existing programs and funding instruments to provide some relief for the crisis we face as a community.

After some discussion ten people signed up to be part of the Committee. Others expressed a willingness to help but didn't want to commit themselves to being full-fledged members. Two others unable to attend the meeting also signed on.

At our next meeting, on Tuesday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church, we are going to draw up a survey to assess more accurately the current housing situation and get some input on what improvements people would like to see.

At our third meeting, on Saturday, April 25, at 10:30 a.m. (note, that's a morning meeting), State Representative Chris Hodgkins will be there to speak and to listen. He is especially concerned with this issue.

Everyone is invited! For information please call me at 528-9244.

— Leslie Scutellaro

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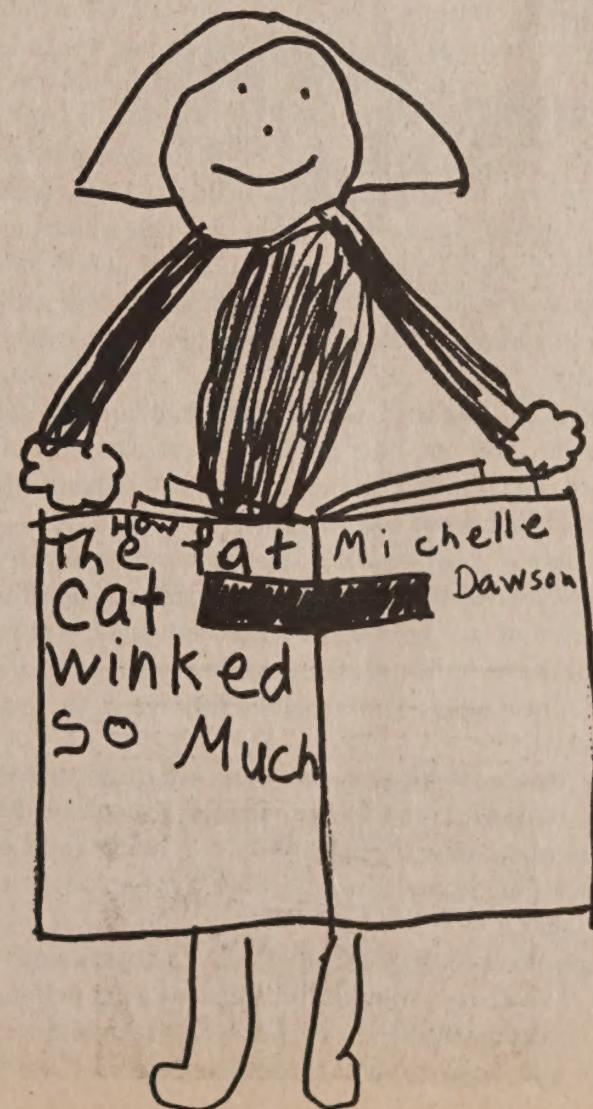
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Listings Needed



Cora Jay Baker

SUSAN McALLESTER

On March 6, Cora Jay Baker came to Monterey to live with Joe Baker, Bonner McAllester, and Sudi Sparrow Baker. Cora was born in Madhya Pradesh, India, on May 3, 1986, and Bonner and Joe have adopted her from Holy Cross in Delhi, the same orphanage which gave them Sudi two years ago. Cora is already well adapted to life on HUPI Road, spending her days in the sugar house making maple syrup and dancing with Sudi to contra dance music in the evenings.



CAT PEOPLE

Last fall I visited San Francisco and was much interested in the plant and animal life there, so different from what I see here in Monterey. For one thing, there is an incredible zoo such as could only be found in a fairly liberal city with a fairly mild climate. Most of the animal enclosures have been brought up to modern esthetic and humanitarian standards, and it was a real pleasure to see the white tiger from India, "Charlie," lying at his ease in tall grass with big bushes behind him, an attractive moat in front of him, and blue sky above him. The next time we passed Charlie's "habitat," he had retreated to the privacy of the big bushes.

You could argue that Charlie would be happier in the wild, and I suppose it is true that he might be even better off than he is. He certainly is better off already than the white tiger I saw in India two years ago at the Delhi Zoo, where modern American zoological park concepts are nowhere to be seen. The Delhi tiger, "Rajah," lay on the flat concrete roof of his house, in a barred cage about 10 by 15 feet and 10 feet high. He was thin, mangy, old. No tiger in that condition could survive in the wild. Maybe freedom would give him heart, inspire him to recovery and rejuvenation. Or maybe the pressures of survival in the jungle would quickly wear him down. They might even wear Charlie down.

I saw some worn-down jungle cats in the wild in San Francisco, too. My guide, my brother, took me to secret places in the arborets and parks where little structures like open-sided rabbit hutches or some kind of toy-sized shantytowns had been built without permit or plan. These were cat-houses and cat-feeding stations, with cheap little saucers in them and no cats to be seen. We had been noisy in our approach.

When I asked who fed the cats my brother told me it was old people, women, a little crazy, who were wild and furtive themselves. The cats would come to them, but not to us.

We went back to the paths of the arboretum and walked in silence for awhile. Then a rustling in the bushes made us stop, and we could see a little old woman in a flower-print dress peering at us from behind a rhododendron. She carried a shopping bag and a can opener, and the look she gave us was not friendly.

We asked her, feeling foolish, if she had come to feed the cats, and she said she had and that there was one wild cat nearby but that until we left she would not come out for her meal. Apologizing, we took the path to civilization.

Back home at my brother's apartment there are three fat cats, one white one named Danielle who sleeps on top of the refrigerator and two grey tigers who roam the lower reaches of the rooms and hallways. Except for supervised short visits to the elaborate jungle-garden of the back yard, these cats do not go out.

Here in Monterey we have two cats, not quite so fat, who sleep by the stove all day and come and go as they please through our systems of cat doors. They are both hunters, and Corvus, the big black one, leaves squirrels, blue jays and once a rabbit under my desk.

Although I've had dogs of one kind or another since I was about ten, I've always thought of myself as a cat person. The tendency to categorize one's friends and acquaintances into cat people and dog people is a familiar brand of home psy-

chology which, though it may not be worth anything except as idle taxonomic amusement, is pretty widespread. It encourages other kinds of "lumping," too. When I was little I thought all women were cat people and all men (except Dad) were dog people. I even assumed that unspecified cats were female and unspecified dogs male. To a strange cat I would say, "Here, girl." To a dog, "Come, boy."

Even after all these years with dogs I would protest I am a cat person. Why do I even care? There is something about cats, we home psychologists feel, which is dark and mysterious, powerful and promising. Dogs are right there on the surface. You shake hands, that's it. Cats you can live with for years and still have the romance of strangeness. Kipling in his *Just So Stories* tells us the cat is the only one of the domestic animals which would never give up its wildness. During the day it endeared itself to the woman by entertaining the child, and she let the cat sit near the fire. (The woman, of course, was a cat person.) But at night the cat returned to the wild, the cat who "walks by himself."

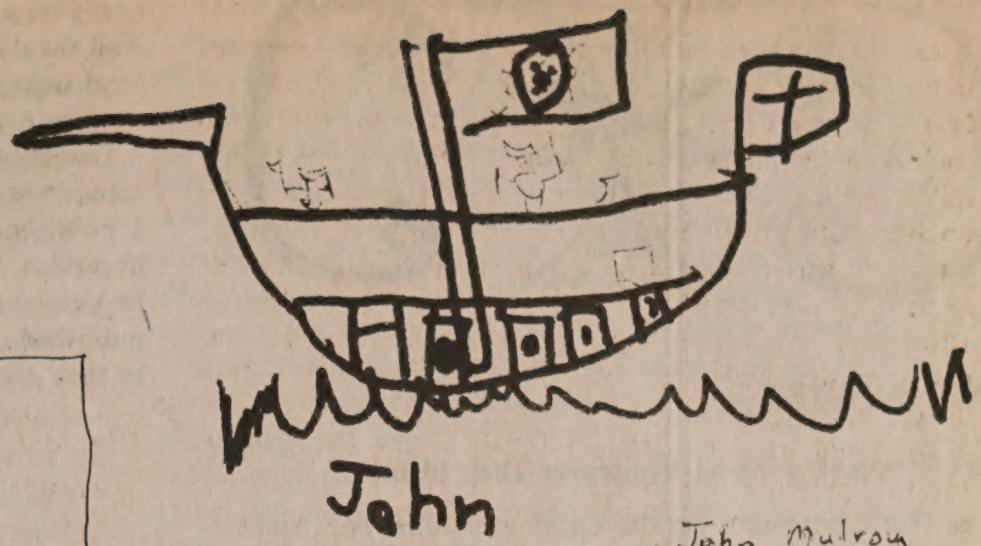
Ancient Egyptians worshipped a cat goddess named Bast, whose other names included Oubastis, Bastet, or Pasht—from which the name Puss derives. Bast represented light, warmth and the lifeforces of the sun, but she also stood for the mysterious, night character of the cat, and for moon worship.

The dog wears his heart upon his sleeve, and some people go for that kind of relationship. Also he needs us. So we call him "Man's Best Friend." But the cat, whether she is a zoo-bound white tiger, a 2,500-year-old goddess, or our own toasted tabby on the stove tiles, seems to be holding something back which makes us want her and need her. She lies in our laps by day, but at night she returns with ease to a wildness which is almost gone from our current human makeup. It is that little bit which remains, I think, which makes some folks cat people.

— Bonner J. McAllester



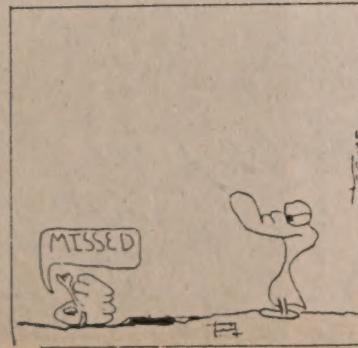
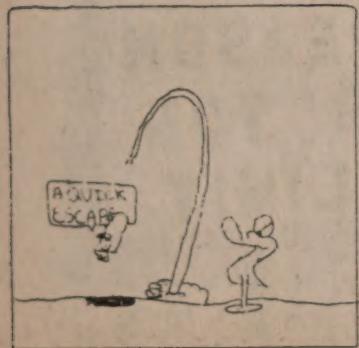
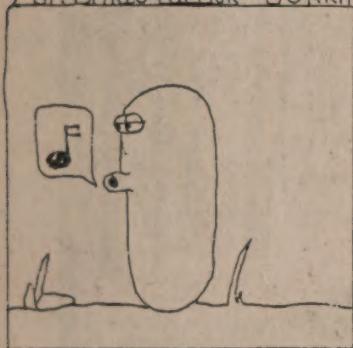
Bast. She carries a rattle, a kitten and a shield.



John Mulroy



TUNNELS
BY: CHRISTOPHER BURKHART



Fireside

*Beyond, alas,
the raging mass,
I seek the fireside.
A silent room
of orange gloom.
In embers I confide.*

*The crackling tone
of life alone.
The whispers of the wood.
I've come to hear
the upper sphere,
the messenger of good.*

— Tim Keefe



INDIAN NOTES

The Muh-he-kun-ne-ok Rediscover Their Identity

In their "Foreword" in the *Catalog of Materials: Stockbridge-Munsee Historical Library Museum*, published by the Muh-he-con-neew Press, Bowler, Wisconsin, 1980, Sheila Moede and Dorothy Davids describe the revival of the Mahican Indians' interest in themselves as a tribal entity: "In the early years of the twentieth century, the Stockbridge Indians almost ceased to exist as a People, but leaders emerged who reunited the families, secured submarginal land for settlement and developed programs. The People survived. The story of the tribe's move from landless desperation to emerging self-determination was recorded in the papers of Carl Miller who initiated the reorganization of the tribe, of Arvid E. Miller, Sr., who served as chairman of the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council for twenty-six years, of Anna Besaw and Elmer Davids, Sr., who served as tribal council members. From those beginnings interest grew among the People and the search for our history continued through mid-century and into the present."

The James Davids family visited Stockbridge, MA, in 1950 and discovered the tribe's long-lost two-volume Bible at the Mission House. Grace Wilcox, Stockbridge's historical librarian at that time, befriended them, visited them in Wisconsin and arranged for the donation of several books to the tribe. In 1970 four other tribal members visited Stockbridge, and the new librarian, Polly Pierce, helped them gather other rare books and make copies of original historical documents. Muh-he-kun-ne-ok interest grew, and in 1972 eight Stockbridge-Munsee people retraced the migration of their ancestors from Massachusetts to Wisconsin, gathering additional historical materials on the way.

In 1973 an active historical committee was formed. Here in the former Mahican lands we should know their names: Bernice Miller, Blanche Jacobs, Thelma Putnam, Beryl Schwab, Leah Heath, Marcella Elmergreen, Arminta Hebert, Tina Williams, Leila Bowman, Sheila Moede, Ruth Gudinas, and Dorothy Davids. They secured funding from the Wisconsin American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Humanities for a building and for the cataloguing that was becoming imperative for the largest collection in existence of historical materials of the Stockbridge-Munsee people.

Microfilms, maps, blueprints, tribal papers and audio and videotapes have been added to the original documents and cultural artifacts that have been coming together in the Historical Library Museum. Stimulated by all this interest, fifteen members of the Muh-he-kun-ne-ok community, including

nine young people, came to Stockbridge in 1975, visited historical sites and cemeteries and climbed Monument Mountain. And the donations of family papers, oral histories, and cultural treasures continued to come in. Bernice Miller, wife of the late Arvid E. Miller, Sr., became the tribal historian.

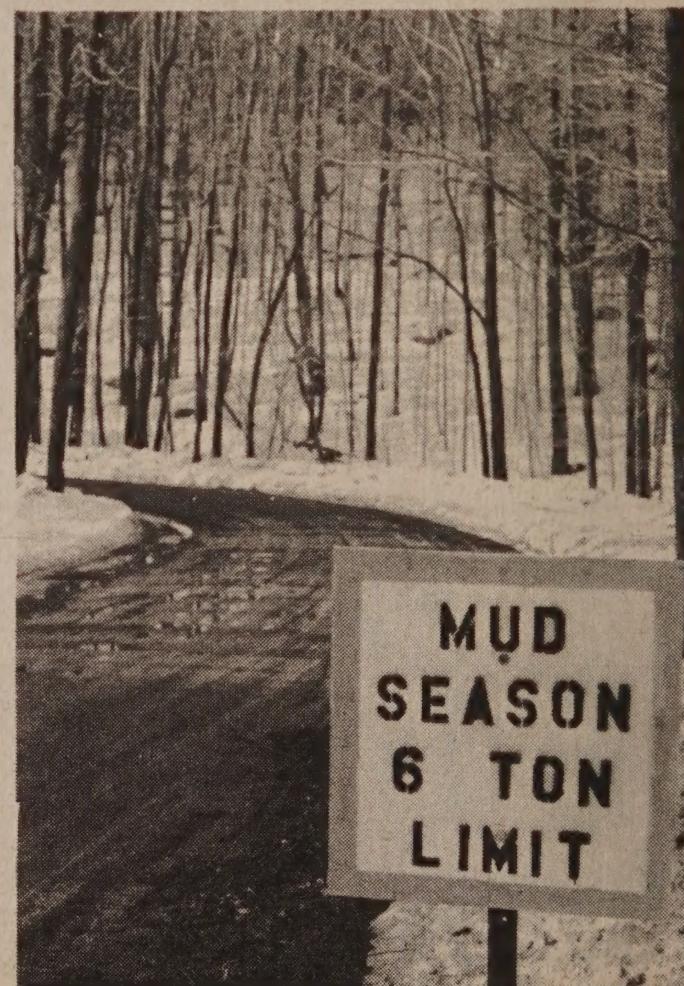
Largely as a result of the efforts of the dedicated women mentioned above, the catalogue and index as of 1980 became a published reality. Much help was given by professional librarians, historians, writers and other friends of the Muh-he-kun-ne-ok. A unique feature of the document is that the published items are annotated by the Indians, themselves, as to their ethnographic reliability.

— David P. McAllester

April

*Fair April's skies are blue above the earth
Her glowing sunshine brings to life the flowers;
With open arms she welcomes each one's birth
And bathes them all with cool refreshing showers.
The willows flaunt their tresses in the air
As April sends her gentle breezes high,
And fiery buds on maples that were bare
Stand out against a brilliant cobalt sky.
Along the garden walks small crocuses
Greet us with their colors gay and bright,
And in the marshes peepers loudly raise
Their happy chorused voices through the night.*

— Eleanor Kimberley



SUSAN McALLESTER

LAND FACTS

On TV a long time ago there was a cop show called *Dragnet*. Jack Webb played an FBI agent in LA named Friday (TGIF?). Every week in flat, jaded tones—he was sympathetic of course, but a pro with a job to do—he would have to ask a distraught female recounting dreadful events to stick to “the facts, ma’am. Just the facts.” That’s what we’re up to this month. No philosophy, no poetics, not even any history, except for some recent, dry statistical stuff.

This is about local taxes with respect to land use. Occasionally, we hear land conservation as promoted by the Land Trust called into question regarding its effect on tax revenue. Briefly stated, the tax credits and exemptions discussed here are income losses that the Town must make up elsewhere in its budget. The laws regulating such adjustments are deadly complicated, but we can omit the tortured details and still provide valid basic information helpful in judging the effects of land preservation on local taxation.

The Town of Monterey has a total taxable value of just over \$52 million. This value is established according to strictly enforced state guidelines, and each town’s valuation is reviewed every three years. Our total budget in the fiscal year ending in June 1987 was a little over \$1 million. Of this total, the sum \$658,730 was raised through real estate and personal property taxes. There are 1,049 tax accounts. (Fewer taxpayers, since some pay on more than one parcel of land.) We are currently taxed at a rate of \$11.84 per thousand dollars of assessed value. The rate is constant in any given fiscal year, but the value of land varies.

Owners of forest and agricultural lands who maintain them for such use according to regulations set out in Chapters 61 and 61A of the General Laws are entitled to tax credits. Since the state doesn’t reimburse the Town for this tax loss, all the Town’s taxpayers have to make up the difference. Here are the totals for the current fiscal year.

Ten parcels of land in Monterey totaling 510.6 acres are in the forestry program, Chapter 61. The total valuation of this land is \$275,000. This figure represents its cash value in the open real estate market. (About \$450/acre, all things being equal, which they never are. You can imagine the price of a small pine forest on a gentle south-facing slope of sandy soil near a quiet road, and it wouldn’t be anything like the per-acre cost of a large rocky tract dropping off sharply on the cold north side.) Maintaining the forest entitles the owners to a

valuation credit worth \$264,145, so the net value actually taxed (market value less the credit) is \$10,855. Thus at the current rate the total tax revenue from the land is \$128.54/year. The loss comes to \$3,127.46.

Consider the same statistics for land in the state’s agricultural/horticultural program, Chapter 61A. Monterey has 13 parcels of this land totaling 648.35 acres. The total valuation is \$410,200. (About \$640/acre, if you want to put it that way. Cleared land tends to be worth more than woods.) The credits total \$244,230, for a net taxable value of \$165,970, which realizes a tax revenue of \$1,965.08. The loss is \$2,891.69.

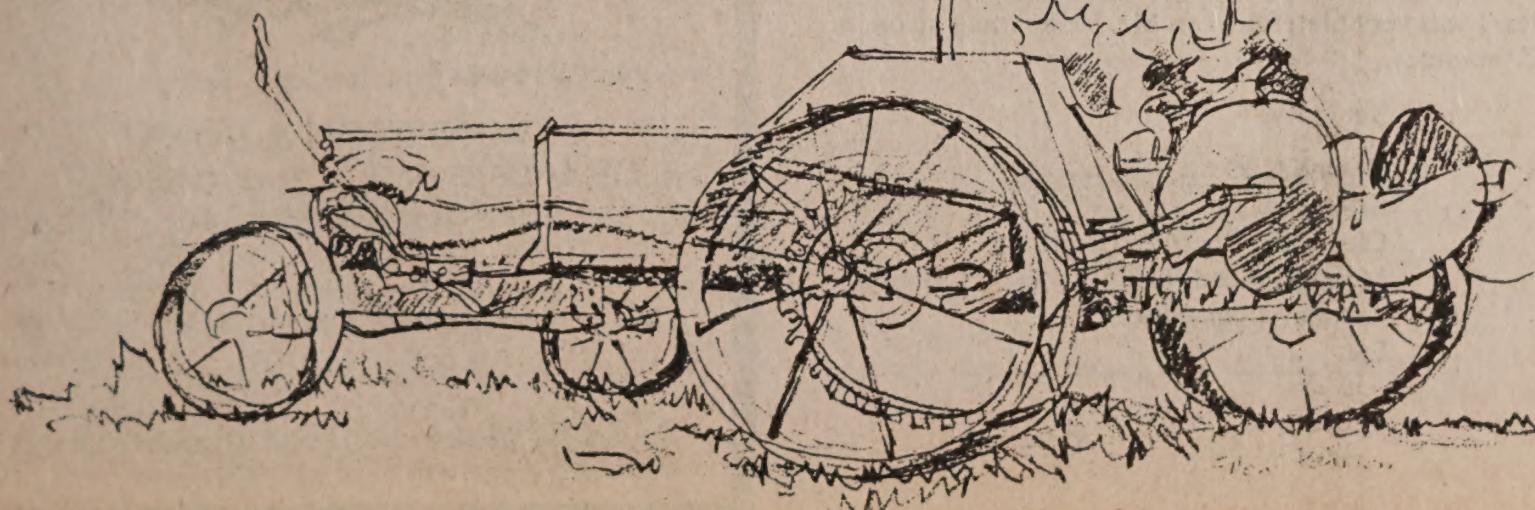
The grand totals are \$508,375 in forestry and agricultural credits, for a loss of \$6,019.22, or less than one one-hundredth of our total tax levy.

Monterey has considerable land that’s tax exempt. We are about 10% state forest, and the Town owns our parks, cemeteries, and the parade ground. The Feds own the Hatchery (pretty fishy, eh, Friday?), and there are several nonprofit tax-exempt corporations in town, such as Gould Farm, Hephzibah Heights, New England Keswick, the Monterey Meeting House Society (the Church), the Fire Company, and the Grange. These lands are already quite developed in many cases, and the total valuation of such exempt property is \$4,120,200. We lose tax revenue worth \$48,783.17, but the state reimbursed the Town about \$48,000 last year for its state forest, and many of the private tax-exempt organizations make generous contributions to the Town in lieu of taxes.

The nonprofit, tax-exempt Monterey Preservation Land Trust is now proud owner of about 40 acres, mostly wooded, some cleared, including a small haylot. Give it a *generous* \$600/acre value, and the tax loss amounts to \$284.16. This is precisely .00043 of the most recent total tax levy. Let’s say all of Monterey’s 1,000 tax accounts share the tax burden equally, and it amounts to 28¢ a year on the average tax bill.

I’d say the cost of conservation lands in terms of shifted tax burden is a bargain, and that’s a fact. In our American heart, it may feel wrong to remove a commodity as hot as land is now from the marketplace, but we have to be tough, like Friday, and not let our emotions color the facts. Farm fields are routinely cut up for building lots, but I’ve never heard of a housing project plowed under and seeded to winter rye. The building momentum needs to be balanced. We’re lucky to have our undeveloped land. We should keep it that way, and do all we can to add to it. The cost is next to nothing.

— Peter Murkett



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

On Friday, February 20, 1987, Mr. Glenn Heller telephoned me in a state of high excitement and indignation, complaining that our temporary Town Clerk, Mrs. Maryellen Brown, had broken the law by mishandling petitions which he had submitted to her. He said that the petitions contained articles for inclusion in the warrant of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 2, 1987, and that he had already complained to the State Board of Elections in Boston. He told me that I was more intelligent than the other two Selectmen and that therefore he wanted me to start an investigation immediately. My investigation revealed that Mr. Heller had asked Maryellen to do something contrary to the relevant law (MGL Chap. 39, Sec. 10) and that therefore the complaint was completely groundless. On Sunday, February 22, 1987, Mr. Heller wrote a letter to the Selectmen which showed that he had been informed of the correct procedure by the Office of the Secretary of State in Boston. This letter did not reach the Selectmen until March 2. Consequently, in the Selectmen's meeting on Monday, February 23, 1987, I informed Mr. Heller that his complaint was groundless and that he obviously did not know the legally prescribed procedure. He countered that he had learned the incorrect procedure from our former Town Clerk, the late Suzanne MacIver. He made no mention of the Office of the Secretary of State.

(Another personal aside: On Friday evening, when he complained to me, he did not know the correct procedure. On Saturday and Sunday, the Office of the Secretary of State in Boston is closed and gives out no information. Yet on Sunday, he wrote that he knew the correct procedure. On Monday, he conceded that he did not know the correct procedure, blaming his ignorance on the late Sue MacIver. What did Heller know and when did he know it? Sherlock Holmes and Jessica Fletcher of Monterey, here is one for you!)

On Friday, March 13, 1987, Mr. Heller telephoned me once again to complain about wrongdoing by Maryellen Brown, saying that he had also again complained to the Board of Elections in Boston (which, incidentally, had found nothing wrong on February 20). We talked for 51 minutes, but he never clearly stated his complaint. As far as I could make out, Maryellen's main offense was that she had locked the Town Office door 4 minutes and 40 seconds before the start of her legal lunch hour, which according to Mr. Heller is 12 noon. The fact is that Maryellen, with the full approval of the Selectmen, makes her own hours and can go to lunch at 8 a.m. if she chooses. I was very grateful when Mr. Heller hung up on me after 51 minutes.

Sincerely,

Hans Kessler

Selectman

Chairman, Board of Health

Member, Roads and Machinery Committee

Auxiliary Dog Officer

Etc.

To the Editor:

In the *National Geographic* (April '87) George Gentry writes in his article about seals that killing endangered species is "abuse of freedom."

I consider Monterey as belonging to an endangered species: a New England rural/resort town whose special attraction and historical value are its sparse settlement and its New England simplicity. Last year, in a letter to the Editor of the *Monterey News* I wrote, "We saved the whale and the bald eagle, so there is no reason why we cannot save Monterey." In the meantime, we found out that there are quite a few people who see no reason why we should save Monterey. Some go so far as to prefer "abuse of freedom," which in this case is uncontrolled building, to restraining the ones responsible for the slow destruction of Monterey. These people remind me of those who called the savers of whales, eagles, otters and seal pups undemocratic and practicing discrimination because they too had to restrain the abusers of freedom. But the unrestrained development has brought us another problem. Our school district gets financial aid from Boston entirely based on property assessments. Then the school has to divide this sum for each town, taking into consideration the number of children who attend the district schools. In 1984-85 Monterey was assessed at \$37 million, but by 1986-87 it had gone up to \$59 million, even though the number of children attending the district had gone down! The higher the property value, the lower the state aid, and the higher the school taxes we pay. David McAllester in the March edition of the *Monterey News* wrote: "... We can calculate and enforce a limit to development that will balance income with demographic sanity. Beautiful countryside is our commodity, and it is nonrenewable . . ."

I hope the citizens of Monterey will listen to this most timely and valuable advice.

— Lucie Lancome

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To the Editor:

A taxing discovery has been made. It appears that the Monterey Board of Assessors has failed for years to assess taxes on personal property used by local businesses. The obvious result of this lost source of revenue is that the bulk of the tax burden has been shifted onto owners of real estate.

One aspect of Massachusetts tax law is that tax is to be assessed on all personal property used in business, manufacturing, and retail stock-in-trade. The failure to enforce this area of taxation is preferential treatment and a financial bonus to the many businesses in town, but the unfortunate end result is that the general tax burden is shunted wholly onto owners of real estate. In Monterey, second-home owners account for a majority of this group, and these individuals are not legally able to vote on fiscal matters for which they pay.

Lack of the vote has always been a thorny issue, but gross omission of a whole class of taxpayers (who live locally and have a legal obligation to pay their fair share of taxes) surely compounds this inequity. With a hefty tax override approved last year, it does not seem right that this permanent burden is not shared fairly by all, especially now with a new round of higher assessments coming.

The monies involved are not small. Realistic and accurate assessments might generate enough revenue to offset increases in the school budget or solid-waste disposal expenses and would decrease the overall tax rate.

No excuse can explain the Assessors' oversight on this matter. The number and variety of commercial entities in Town is well known. Almost none of the equipment or facilities used by these businesses can be classified as exempt. Of those who are being assessed, an examination of the tax books plainly shows who is being favored.

To bring fairness back to the tax structure of the Town, it is incumbent on the Assessors to start treating everyone alike.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn M. Heller

To the Editor:

I would like to thank my supporters at the Democratic and Republican caucuses.

A reminder to the voters of Monterey: your vote always counts. Please come to the Annual Town Meeting on May 2.

Thank you,

Rick Mielke

Candidate for Selectman

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To the Editor:

With your permission I wish to express my appreciation to those who supported my attempt to obtain the Democratic nomination for selectman. Their encouragement and the fact that 39 people made time in their schedules to vote for me at the Democratic caucus was especially gratifying. Perhaps I shall have the good fortune of obtaining the nomination some time in the future.

I look forward to having the chance to serve Monterey on the Finance Committee if the voters approve my selection at Town Meeting. In addition I hope to contribute to the town through my membership on the Affordable Housing Committee.

Also, while I have your attention I ask you to consider supporting the Town Meeting warrant article which would create the position of Town Accountant. The Accounting Needs Committee on which I was asked to serve by the selectmen strongly supports this development. We believe the resultant improvement and enhancement of the Town's accounting system and business practices would far more than offset the cost of this part-time position.

Respectfully,

Virgil Stucker



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Jed Lipsky

MONTEREY — Jed Lipsky devotes an average of 25 hours per week to Monterey town affairs. He has logged 12 years on the Conservation Committee, 8 years on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health and is currently chairman of the Roads and Machinery Committee. For all this, he is paid \$1,200 per year.

Born in New Marlborough, Mr. Lipsky attended local schools and was graduated from Mt. Everett. After attending college at Ithaca College, Cornell and the University of Colorado, Jed settled for a time in Bondville, a small town in Windham County, Vermont.

"They were sort of pioneering times in Vermont. When I got there, the state had just passed a zoning enablement act, and for the first time, small towns could adopt regulations to control growth. There had been no boards at all previously," he remembered.

In addition to holding the position of zoning administrative officer, Mr. Lipsky served on the town's Planning Board for four years. During this time, he authored a town plan for Bondville, was also a director on the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont for several years and served on the Regional Planning Commission as well.

He directed a summer conservation school in Vermont and administered various educational programs, focusing on land acquisitions and management.

In 1972, Mr. Lipsky moved back to the Berkshires, built a home in Monterey and, out of his longtime interest in conservation, started the Blue Hill Company, a forest management and logging firm.

"My experience in Vermont taught me that you could have a great deal of impact on the area you lived in."

"I was never one to protest the war or nuclear arms, or issues at that level, but I got into a thing where I wanted to put energy into politics in such a way that I could really see results, really have some positive effect."

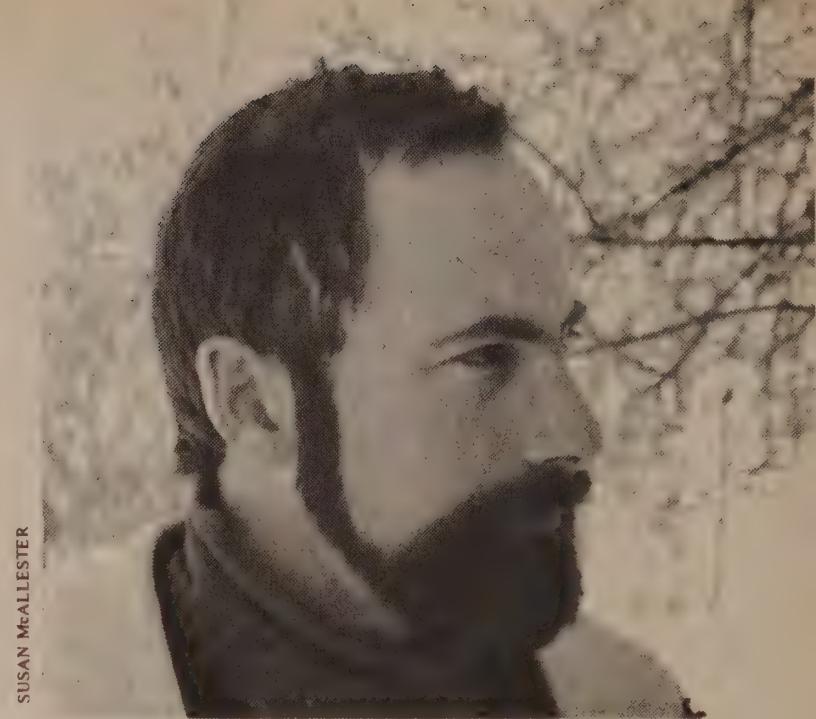
The beginning of his political involvement in Monterey happened with an appointment to an earth removal by-law committee in the early '70s. From there, he was elected to the Monterey Planning Board and served as both member and chairperson for five years. Mr. Lipsky represented Monterey at the Regional Planning Commission during that time as well.

Jed Lipsky has a reputation among townspeople and colleagues alike for diplomacy and a cool head.

Selectman Hans Kessler said, "Diplomacy is one of his strong points. There have been situations, times, when I was very tempted to use strong words, but he would handle things in a very gentle and diplomatic way. He's rarely ruffled."

Mr. Lipsky said he has always found a lot of fulfillment in working with people and helping to solve problems in the community, especially in the area of growth and land use.

"But just watching the political process in general is fascinating to me. I have a great deal of respect for the democratic process, and I also have a lot of faith in the



SUSAN MEALLESTER

average person's sense of justice and fair play.

"One way to ensure that the democratic process continues is to get involved."

This respect for people could be Lipsky's secret. "I've always drawn from people's wisdom and common sense. I've tried to bring different people's ideas together to work for the community as a whole as opposed to trying to foist more regulations or more controls on them."

"There are just a lot of people who are very smart about things. But you just don't get the whole job done if you turn off people for some reason. Good ideas can get lost in the process."

"I never had a religious community; so a political contribution was the one sort of social contribution I felt I could make. I felt it was effective, that it was, in fact, a contribution to the community I live in. I mean, it's taking responsibility for my environment."

— Judith Freeman

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PERSONAL NOTES

In the fall semester at Bridgewater State College, **Karen Hayes** has again made high honors. She is now a junior majoring in Industrial-Personnel Psychology.

Watch for news of a Community Garden later this spring. There will be an opportunity for people who do not have gardening space of their own. For information get in touch with **Milly Walsh** or **Bob Thieriot**.

Bonner McAllester, **Ann McGinley**, and **Ellen Pearson** made a flying trip to New Delhi, India, last month to bring back **Cora Jay Baker** to her new home on Hupi Road. In addition to their humanitarian mission, they visited Jaipur in Rajasthan, and palaces, forts, game parks and other wonders; all along the way they met friendly and interesting Indian people. They also escorted a second infant girl from the same Social Services Center back to the U. S. The new parents of Tulsie as well as Cora's father, **Joe Baker**, and assorted grandparents, made up a festive welcoming party at the New York International Airport.

Edith Wilson has been to New York recently, where one of her main purposes was to see the widely acclaimed Van Gogh show at the Metropolitan Museum.

David McAllester lectured on Indian music and culture at Williams College and Wesleyan University last month. He will be carrying the word to Harvard in April, Cleveland State University in May, and the University of Colorado in June.

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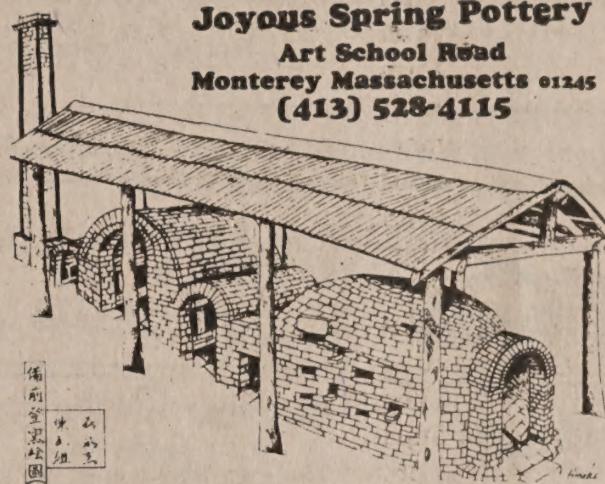
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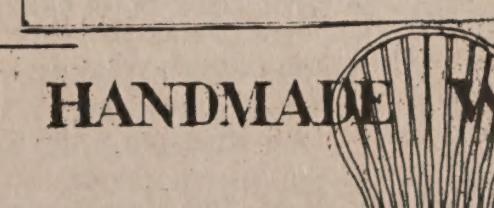
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DIRECTORY OF ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE

The Music and Arts Department of the Berkshire Athenaeum is now compiling a directory of all artists, photographers and craftspeople of the greater Berkshire County area. It will be used as resource material in the library's files on Berkshire artists. Current biographical information, as well as address, education, and medium, is requested from all artists wishing to be included. Nonreturnable slides or photographs of works are also welcome, for more complete representation of each artist. Information may be sent to the Music & Arts Department, Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

The Monterey Arts Council has received and is preparing to distribute \$750.00 for the 1987 January-July Massachusetts Arts Lottery funding cycle.

The council is now seeking applicants for the July-December funding cycle.

Applications may be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk, Monterey. Deadline is April 21.

For more information call: 528-3723/528-4115/528-1806 or write to: The Monterey Arts Council, P. O. Box 100, Monterey, MA 01245.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

As you'll note, I've added \$5.00 to my last year's contribution, hoping that you will see to it that my issues of the *Monterey News* will be sent to me first class. The February issue did not reach me until February 27—and as I depend upon it for notices of meetings—they are usually long gone before I get my copy.

I do enjoy news of Monterey and appreciate all the time, effort and talent that the staff give to this really worthwhile community communication.

This issue with the fine profile and photograph of Edith Wilson was especially noteworthy.

Sincerely,
Margaret S. Peet

To the Editor:

Tonight, immersed in the last two issues of the *Monterey News*, I find myself in my wonderful little hometown again, happy to see pictures and names of old friends, saddened by the deaths, excited to hear about the Land Trust and the young folks' successes, and charmed by such articles as "To Be Born in a Barn."

Please keep me on your mailing list.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth H. Simons

Minna J. Zaret



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 4—*The Horse's Mouth*, with Alec Guinness as the unpredictable, hilarious, fictional artist, Gulley Jimson, in Joyce Cary's novel. Presented by the Monterey Arts Council in the Church Social Room, 7:30 p.m. \$2.50 per person, and \$1.00 for children and seniors.

Monday, April 6—New Body, Stress Transformation Class in the Church Social Room, 6:30 p.m. Held every Monday; one class is offered free.

Saturday, April 11—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30—11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults \$3.50; children, \$1.00 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Mondays, April 13 and 20—Stress Transformation Class, see above.

Tuesday, April 21—deadline for application to Monterey Arts Council. Do you need funding to help with your work? See "Arts Council News" under Notices on page 14.

Saturday, April 25—Square and Contra Dance, see April 11 above for details. This second Saturday of the month is for people who have done it before.

Saturday, April 25—10:30 a.m. Affordable Housing Committee meeting, with State Representative Chris Hodgkins. Everyone invited; for information call 528-9244.

Monday, April 27—Stress Transformation Class, see Mondays, above.

Wednesday, April 29—Community Supper, in the Church Social Room, at 6:30 p.m. Potluck supper and sociable time with your neighbors; a different entertainment every time.

Saturday, May 2—Monterey's Annual Town Meeting, 10:00 at the Firehouse.

Dear Friends of Monterey,

I am very much interested in obtaining a piano, so my boys, 6 and 8 years, can learn to play and I can further my studies in composition to expand my capabilities as a composer.

If you can help and have a piano that you would be willing to donate, loan or rent at a nominal fee, we would be grateful beyond words.

Sincerely,
Joan Boyer
PO Box 254
Monterey, MA 01245

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Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. **NOTE: Copy for the May issue should reach the editor by April 15!** In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

UPON MY WORD!

If you've ever wondered if there were a connection between the toast we butter and the toast we raise, sit back and enjoy a most curious etymology.

In the early years of the nineteenth century, the days of Beau Brummel in Bath, England, the most popular drink was syllabub, a kind of punch served with croutons floating in it. Well, once a year, a stag party would be held at the Roman Baths, and assorted beauties in the altogether would disport themselves in the pool. One poetic wag, noting their bobbing heads, saw a resemblance to croutons floating in this sulfureous syllabub and, raising his glass, shouted, "To the toast of the town!" Whether he fell in himself is not recorded, but we owe him a debt whenever we raise our glasses to give a toast.

— Alice O. Howell

GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange No. 291 met at the hall on March 3 for a Women's Activity Program—National and State projects were outlined, and fund raising events were discussed. A foodless food sale was held, and the Grange wants to thank members who supported it.

Applications for membership are being taken at this time. The next meeting will be the annual Booster Night open to the public on March 18. Pomona Deputy Thomas Colt Hart from Holyoke will be the guest speaker. Visitors are welcome.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

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